

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A dispensing device for selectively dispensing a substance comprising:

a container defining a chamber for storing the substance;

a lid element including:

a lower lid portion attachable to the container, the lower lid portion defining at least one lower orifice, the lower lid portion having an upwardly-extending column member with a head portion located in a center region of the lower lid portion, wherein the column member includes a base portion and the head portion connected by a neck portion, at least a portion of the neck portion having an outer radial dimension that is smaller than an outer radial dimension of the base portion and the head portion; and

an upper lid portion configured to be rotatably mounted on the lower lid portion via, and below the head portion of, the column member, the upper lid portion defining at least one upper orifice, wherein the upper lid portion is rotatable relative to the lower lid portion to a closed position at which the upper orifice is misaligned with the lower orifice, and wherein the upper lid portion is rotatable relative to the lower lid portion to an open position at which the upper orifice is aligned with the lower orifice for dispensing the substance.

2. (Previously Presented) The dispensing device of claim 1, wherein the dispensing device is a drinking container.

3. (Previously Presented) The dispensing device of claim 1, wherein the substance is a drinking liquid.

4. (Previously Presented) The dispensing device of claim 3, wherein the drinking liquid is carbonated.

5. (Previously Presented) The dispensing device of claim 1, further comprising a control element attachable to the upper lid portion, the control element being movable by a user for controlling the rotation of the upper lid portion relative to the lower lid portion.

6. (Previously Presented) The dispensing device of claim 1, wherein the control element is a handle portion that extends beyond an edge of the lid element, the handle portion being manipulatable by a thumb of a user.

7. (Currently Amended) The dispensing device of claim 1, wherein the lower lid portion includes the a base over which the upper lid portion rotates and a side wall that extends upwardly to a rim.

8. (Previously Presented) The dispensing device of claim 1, further comprising a sliding element positionable on a top surface of the upper lid portion, the sliding element configured to engage the column member so as to press the upper lid portion towards the lower lid portion.

9. (Previously Presented) The dispensing device of claim 8, wherein the sliding element has a sloped surface that is configured, upon movement of the sliding element relative to the column member, to gradually engage a corresponding sloping surface of the column member so as to progressively press the upper lid portion towards the lower lid portion.

10. (Previously Presented) The dispensing device of claim 1, further comprising a sealing element between the upper orifice and the lower orifice so as to seal the lid element when in the closed position.

11. (Currently Amended) The dispensing device of claim 1, wherein the ~~column member includes a base portion and the head portion connected by a neck portion, at least a portion of the neck portion having an outer radial dimension that is smaller than an outer radial dimension of the base portion and the head portion~~ includes a flat key surface.

12. (Previously Presented) The dispensing device of claim 8, wherein the sliding element includes a slot that is configured to be received within the neck portion of the column member for maintaining the sliding element in position between the base portion and the head portion, wherein the upper lid portion is configured to be rotatably mounted below the sliding element.

13. (Previously Presented) The dispensing device of claim 12, wherein the head portion has a shape, and wherein the upper lid portion defines a central opening having a shape and the slot of the sliding element defines a shape each of which correspond to the shape of the head portion, such that the head portion is insertable through the central opening of the upper lid portion and such that the sliding element is moveable relative to the head portion when the sliding element is in a first rotational position relative to the lower lid portion.

14. (Previously Presented) The dispensing device of claim 13, wherein the shape of the head portion and the slot of the sliding element are configured such that the upper lid

portion and the sliding element are maintained in the neck portion of the column member when the sliding element is rotated away from the first rotational position.

15. (Previously Presented) The dispensing device of claim 14, wherein the first rotational position is positioned so as to prevent the upper lid portion from being axially propelled from the lower lid portion by pressure stored in the chamber when the upper lid portion is rotated between the closed position and the open position.

16. (Previously Presented) The dispensing device of claim 15, wherein the upper lid portion has a bridgewall that extends over at least a portion of a top surface of the upper lid portion.

17. (Previously Presented) The dispensing device of claim 16, wherein the upper lid portion defines, in a space between a top surface of the upper lid portion and a bottom surface of the bridgewall, a slot configured to receive the sliding element.

18. (Previously Presented) The dispensing device of claim 17, wherein the sliding element includes a biased sliding element position indication tab that is configured to register with a tab receiving opening of the upper lid portion when the sliding element is fully inserted in the slot.

19. (Previously Presented) The dispensing device of claim 18, wherein the upper lid portion and the lower lid portion have corresponding rotational position indication elements for indicating when the upper lid portion is in one of an open position, a closed position and the first rotational position.

20. (Previously Presented) The dispensing device of claim 19, wherein the rotational position indication elements include a radial projection located on one of the upper lid portion and the lower lid portion and a projection receiving opening located on the other of the upper lid portion and the lower lid portion, the rotational position indication elements configured to selectively fix the upper lid portion in one of the open and closed positions.

21. (Currently Amended) A lid element attachable to a container defining a chamber for selectively dispensing a substance stored in the chamber, the lid element comprising:

a lower lid portion attachable to the container, the lower lid portion defining at least one lower orifice, the lower lid portion having an upwardly-extending column member with a head portion located in a center region of the lower lid portion, wherein the column member includes a base portion and the a head portion connected by a neck portion, at least a portion of the neck portion having an outer radial dimension that is smaller than an outer radial dimension of the base portion and the head portion; and

an upper lid portion configured to be rotatably mounted on the lower lid portion via, and below the head portion of, the column member, the upper lid portion defining at least one upper orifice, wherein the upper lid portion is rotatable relative to the lower lid portion to a closed position at which the upper orifice is misaligned with the lower orifice, and wherein the upper lid portion is rotatable relative to the lower lid portion to an open position at which the upper orifice is aligned with the lower orifice for dispensing the substance.

22. (Previously Presented) The lid element of claim 21, wherein the container is a drinking container.

23. (Previously Presented) The lid element of claim 21, wherein the substance stored by the container is a drinking liquid.

24. (Previously Presented) The lid element of claim 23, wherein the drinking liquid is carbonated.

25. (Previously Presented) The lid element of claim 21, further comprising a control element attachable to the upper lid portion, the control element being movable by a user for controlling the rotation of the upper lid portion relative to the lower lid portion.

26. (Previously Presented) The lid element of claim 21, wherein the control element is a handle portion that extends beyond an edge of the lid element, the handle portion being manipulatable by a thumb of a user.

27. (Currently Amended) The lid element of claim 21, wherein the lower lid portion includes the a base over which the upper lid portion rotates and a side wall that extends upwardly to a rim.

28. (Previously Presented) The lid element of claim 21, further comprising a sliding element positionable on a top surface of the upper lid portion, the sliding element configured to engage the column member so as to press the upper lid portion towards the lower lid portion.

29. (Previously Presented) The lid element of claim 28, wherein the sliding element has a sloped surface that is configured, upon movement of the sliding element relative to the column member, to gradually engage a corresponding sloping surface of the column member so as to progressively press the upper lid portion towards the lower lid portion.

30. (Previously Presented) The lid element of claim 21, further comprising a sealing element between the upper orifice and the lower orifice so as to seal the lid element when in the closed position.

31. (Currently Amended) The lid element of claim 21, wherein the ~~column member~~ includes a base portion and the head portion connected by a neck portion, at least a portion of the neck portion having an outer radial dimension that is smaller than an outer radial dimension of the base portion and the head portion includes a flat key, wherein the upper lid portion is configured to be rotatably mounted below the head portion.

32. (Previously Presented) The lid element of claim 28, wherein the sliding element includes a slot that is configured to be received within the neck portion of the column member for maintaining the sliding element in position between the base portion and the head portion, wherein the upper lid portion is configured to be rotatably mounted below the sliding element.

33. (Previously Presented) The lid element of claim 32, wherein the head portion has a shape, and wherein the upper lid portion defines a central opening having a shape and the slot of the sliding element defines a shape each of which correspond to the shape of the head portion, such that the head portion is insertable through the central opening of the upper lid portion and such that the sliding element is moveable relative to the head portion when the sliding element is in a first rotational position relative to the lower lid portion.

34. (Previously Presented) The lid element of claim 33, wherein the shape of the head portion and the slot of the sliding element are configured such that the upper lid portion and the sliding element are maintained in the neck portion of the column member when the sliding element is rotated away from the first rotational position.

35. (Previously Presented) The lid element of claim 34, wherein the first rotational position is positioned so as to prevent the upper lid portion from being axially propelled from the lower lid portion by pressure stored in the chamber when the upper lid portion is rotated between the closed position and the open position.

36. (Previously Presented) The lid element of claim 35, wherein the upper lid portion has a bridgewall that extends over at least a portion of a top surface of the upper lid portion.

37. (Previously Presented) The lid element of claim 36, wherein the upper lid portion defines, in a space between a top surface of the upper lid portion and a bottom surface of the bridgewall, a slot configured to receive the sliding element.

38. (Previously Presented) The lid element of claim 37, wherein the sliding element includes a biased sliding element position indication tab that is configured to register with a tab receiving opening of the upper lid portion when the sliding element is fully inserted in the slot.

39. (Previously Presented) The lid element of claim 38, wherein the upper lid portion and the lower lid portion have corresponding rotational position indication elements for indicating when the upper lid portion is in one of an open position, a closed position and the first rotational position.

40. (Previously Presented) The lid element of claim 39, wherein the rotational position indication elements include a radial projection located on one of the upper lid portion and the lower lid portion and a projection receiving opening located on the other of the upper lid portion and the lower lid portion, the rotational position indication elements configured to selectively fix the upper lid portion in one of the open and closed positions.